

Sunset Public Hearing Questions for  
**Tennessee Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementia Advisory Council**  
Created by Section 71-2-117, *Tennessee Code Annotated*  
(Sunset termination June 2021)

1. Please provide a brief overview of the Tennessee Alzheimer's disease and related dementia Advisory Council, including information about the council's creation, statutory duties, administrative attachment, and staff.

The State Alzheimer's disease and related dementia Advisory Council was created by the Tennessee General Assembly as a result of Chapter 364 of the Public Acts of 2019. The purpose of the council is to continually assess the current status of Alzheimer's disease and related dementia in this state and to assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease and dementia on Tennessee residents; examine the existing industries, services, and resources addressing the needs of persons, families, and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementia; and develop a strategy to mobilize a state response to matters regarding Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. The council is required by statute to provide recommendations to the Governor and to the General Assembly on issues related to its work. The council shall consult with and advise the executive director of the Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability on matters related to the establishment, maintenance, and operation of Alzheimer's and dementia initiatives in this state. The Act required the council to develop and submit an Alzheimer's Disease State Plan to the general assembly by January 15, 2020 (which was accomplished) and update the plan and report to the general assembly on its progress no later than January 15 of each subsequent year. This report to the general assembly is to identify barriers to Alzheimer's disease care, analyze service utilization data, and include recommendations, metrics, and best practices to address gaps in service. This report serves as the initial state plan which can be updated annually or as needed. The Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability provides administrative support to the council.

2. Has the council promulgated rules and regulations? If yes, please cite the reference(s).

No, this council has not promulgated rules and regulations.

3. Provide a list of council members and describe how membership complies with Section 71-2-117, *Tennessee Code Annotated*.

**Senator Rusty Crowe**

**Representative Sabi Kumar**

**Jim Shulman**, Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability

**Patti Killingsworth**, TennCare

**Dennis Temple**, Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

**Sally Pitt**, Tennessee Department of Health

**Kirk Mason**, CEO, Stones River Manor

**Dr. Howard Kirshner**, Vanderbilt University Medical Center

**Janice Wade Whitehead**, Alzheimer's Tennessee

**Jesse Samples**, Tennessee Health Care Association

**Elizabeth Bradshaw Scott**, Tennessee Nurses Association

**Reverend Richard Brown**, Payne Avenue Missionary Baptist Church  
**Dawn Bunn**, Alzheimer's Association TN Chapter  
**Van Cluck**, LeadingAge TN Board of Directors  
**Barbara Bowden**, family caregiver representative  
**Dr. David Compton**, person living with Alzheimer's

4. Are there any vacancies on the council? If yes, what is being done to fill those vacancies?

No, there are no vacancies on this council.

5. How many times did the council meet in the last two fiscal years?

The council met for a total of five (5) times in FY 2019 and FY 2020

6. How many members were present at each meeting? Please note meetings where the council did not have a quorum.

Below is list of meeting dates and number of members. Each meeting had a quorum.

August 19, 2019 – all member present

October 16, 2019 – 2 members absent

November 19, 2019 – 2 members absent

December 18, 2019 – 1 member absent

August 19, 2020 – 5 members absent

7. What were the council's revenues and expenditures for the last two fiscal years? Does the council carry a reserve balance?

No revenues and expenditures occurred for FY 2019 and FY 2020. The council does not carry a fund balance.

8. What per diem or travel reimbursement do council members receive? How much was paid to council members in the last two fiscal years?

The council follows TCA 71-2-117(l)(1) which states, "the legislative members of the council shall be reimbursed as members of the general assembly are paid for attending legislative meetings as provided in § 3-1-106."

9. Is the council subject to Sunshine law requirements (Section 8-44-101 et seq., *Tennessee Code Annotated*) for public notice of meetings, prompt and full recording of minutes, and public access to minutes?

Yes, the council is subject to Sunshine law requirements. The meeting dates are posted online on both council webpage and the Commission's calendar webpage at least 30 days prior to meeting. Minutes are available upon request.

10. Does the council allow public comment at meetings? Is prior notice required for public comments? If public comment is not allowed, how does the board obtain feedback from the public?

The council allows and welcomes public comment at all meetings. Prior notice is not required for public comment to be heard.

11. What policies does the council have in place to address potential conflicts of interest by council members, staff, and employees?

The council does not have these types of policies in place but has a draft for consideration at the next meeting.

12. Please describe any activities the council has undertaken to fulfill its purpose as outlined in TCA 71-2-117(m)(1-4), *Tennessee Code Annotated*.

### **Needs Assessment**

For the Alzheimer's and Related Dementia Advisory Council to gain an understanding of the strengths, challenges, and needs of persons living with dementia, their families, and other stakeholders, an initial needs assessment was conducted and used in the development of the Council's initial Alzheimer's and Related Dementia State Plan. The goal of this needs assessment was to provide policy makers, service providers, and the general population with appropriate data about trends and implications for the current population. The Tennessee needs assessment was based upon similar needs assessments conducted in other states. Future in-depth and representative needs assessment will be conducted, as needed, as the plan continues to evolve. Similar to recent Alzheimer's State Plans in other states, the state needs assessment was based on a mixed-methods approach composed of three main components: (1) focus groups conducted by the Tennessee Department of Health in conjunction with the Tennessee State Health Plan; (2) an online statewide survey of older Tennesseans, advocates, persons with Alzheimer's Disease, and (3) analyses of additional data including those presented at meetings of the Tennessee Alzheimer's and Related Dementia Advisory Council.

13. Has the council consulted and advised the executive director on matters related to the establishment, maintenance, and operation of state initiatives related to Alzheimer's disease and related dementia as authorized in TCA 71-2-117(n), *Tennessee Code Annotated*.

Yes, the council consults and advises the Executive Director on matters related to state initiatives related to Alzheimer's disease and related dementia. These initiatives include state/federal grant applications, promotion of community virtual meetings, and the newly formed Long-Term Care Taskforce.

14. Did the council develop and submit an Alzheimer's disease state plan to the chair of the government operations committee of the senate, the chair of the government operations committee of the house of representatives, the chair of the health and welfare committee of the senate, and the chair of the health committee of the house of representatives by January 15, 2020, as required in TCA 71-2-117(p), *Tennessee Code Annotated*? If available, please attach a copy or provide a link to the plan.

Yes, the report was submitted by deadline. A copy of the report can be found here <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/aging/documents/Alzheimer%27s%20and%20related>

[%20dementia%20TN%20State%20Plan.pdf](#) and here <https://www.tn.gov/aging/learn-about/alzheimer-s-disease-and-related-dementia-advisory-council-.html>.

15. Describe any items related to the council that require legislative attention and your proposed legislative changes.

The next report is not due until January 2021. This report may contain recommendations that will require legislative action.

16. Should the council be continued? To what extent and in what ways would the absence of the council endanger the public health, safety or welfare of Tennessee citizens?

This council should be continued to address the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease and dementia for many Tennesseans. Today, there are approximately 120,000 Tennesseans with Alzheimer's Disease being cared for by 439,000 informal caregivers.

17. Please identify the appropriate agency representative or representatives possessing substantial knowledge and understanding of the responses provided to the sunset review questions.

Jim Shulman, Executive Director, Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability

18. Please identify the appropriate agency representative or representatives who will respond to the questions at the scheduled sunset hearing.

Jim Shulman, Executive Director, Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability

19. Please provide the office address, telephone number, and email address of the agency representative or representatives who will respond to the questions at the scheduled sunset hearing.

Jim Shulman  
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